CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method comprising:

2   obtaining price data from each of a plurality of retailers and at least one manufacturer for a

3   plurality of goods;

4   receiving an order for at least one of the plurality of goods;

5   processing a monetary transaction for the order such that the manufacturers of the goods

6   in the order and one of the plurality of retailers are each credited with a sum representing their

7   portion of a total value of the order according to the price data.

1   2.   The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

2   selecting one of a plurality of manufacturer warehouses to fill the order.

1   3.   The method of Claim 1 wherein obtaining price data comprises:

2   obtaining a manufacturer cost for goods supplied by the manufacturer; and

3   obtaining from the retailers a retailer profit data for the goods the retailer sells.

1   4.   The method of Claim 3 wherein the retailer profit data is either a percentage above

2   the manufacturer cost, or a specified sum.

1   5.   The method of Claim 3 wherein the retailer profit data varies among the goods

2   sold by the retailer.

1   6.   The method of Claim 3 wherein the retailer profit data is the same for each of the

2   goods sold by the retailer.

1   7.   The method of Claim 3 wherein a retail price of the plurality of goods is

2   determined by the manufacturer cost and the retailer profit data for the good.

1   8.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the order is received from either a consumer or

2   one of the plurality of retailers.

1   9.   The method of Claim 2 wherein selecting one of a plurality of manufacturer

2   warehouses comprises:

3   identifying one manufacturer warehouse capable of filling the order such that the

4   manufacturer warehouse is geographically closest to either a customer or a customer selected

5   retailer.

1   10.   The method of Claim 9 wherein selecting one of a plurality of manufacturer

2   warehouses further comprises:

3   identifying one manufacturer warehouse that is in the same country as the customer.

1   11.   The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

2   debiting the total value of the order against a credit card account of the customer.

1   12.   The method of Claim 11 wherein debiting the total value is performed after the

2   order is shipped.

1   13.   The method of Claim 12 wherein processing a monetary transaction is performed

2   immediately after debiting the total value.

1 14. The method of Claim 1 wherein processing a monetary transaction is performed at

2 a defined regular interval for multiple orders after the orders have shipped.

1 15. The method of Claim 1 wherein processing a monetary transaction comprises:

2 retaining a commission.

1 16. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

2 obtaining goods-related data from each of the retailers and each of the manufacturers.

1 17. The method of Claim 16 wherein obtaining goods-related data comprises:

2 obtaining a product data and an inventory data from each of the manufacturers; and

3 obtaining a product line data from each of the retailers.

1 18. A method comprising:

2 obtaining price data from each of a plurality of retailers, a plurality of distributors, and at

3 least one manufacturer for a plurality of goods;

4 receiving an order for at least one of the plurality of goods;

5 selecting one of the plurality of distributors to fill the order;

6 processing a monetary transaction for the order such that the distributor selected to fill

7 the order, one of the plurality of retailers, and the manufacturers of the goods in the order are

8 each credited with a sum representing their portion of a total value of the order according to the

9 price data.

1 19. The method of Claim 18 wherein obtaining price data comprises:

2 obtaining a manufacturer cost for goods supplied by the manufacturer;

3 obtaining from each of the distributors a distributor profit data for the goods the

4 distributor distributes; and

5 obtaining from the retailers a retailer profit data for the goods the retailer sells.

1 20. The method of Claim 19 wherein distributor profit data is either a percentage

2 above the manufacturer cost or a specified sum; and wherein retailer profit data is either a

3 percentage above the sum of the manufacturer cost and the distributor profit data, or a specified

4 sum.

1 21. The method of Claim 20 wherein distributor profit data varies among the goods

2 distributed by the distributor; and wherein retailer profit data varies among the goods sold by the

3 retailer.

1 22. The method of Claim 20 wherein distributor profit data is the same for each of the

2 goods distributed by the distributor; and wherein retailer profit data is the same for each of the

3 goods sold by the retailer.

1 23. The method of Claim 20 wherein a retail price of the plurality of goods is

2 determined by the manufacturer cost, the distributor profit data, and the retailer profit data for

3 the good.

1 24. The method of Claim 20:

2 wherein two or more levels of distributors participate in providing the goods but only the

3 selected distributor fills the order;

4   wherein a retail price of the plurality of goods is determined by the manufacturer cost, the

5   distributor profit data for each of the participating distributors, and the retailer profit data for the

6   good; and

7   wherein processing a monetary transaction further comprises:

8   crediting all distributors who participated in providing the goods a sum

9   representing their portion of the total value of the order.

1   25.   The method of Claim 18 wherein the order is received from either a consumer or

2   one of the plurality of retailers.

1   26.   The method of Claim 18 wherein selecting a distributor comprises:

2   identifying one distributor capable of filling the order such that the distributor is

3   geographically closest to either a customer or a customer selected retailer.

1   27.   The method of Claim 26 wherein selecting a distributor further comprises:

2   identifying one distributor that is in the same country as the customer.

1   28.   The method of Claim 18 further comprising:

2   debiting the total value of the order against a credit card account of the customer.

1   29.   The method of Claim 28 wherein debiting the total value is performed after the

2   order is shipped.

1   30.   The method of Claim 28 wherein processing a monetary transaction is performed

2   immediately after debiting the total value.

1   31.   The method of Claim 18 wherein processing a monetary transaction is performed

2   at a defined regular interval for multiple orders after the orders have shipped.

1   32.   The method of Claim 18 wherein processing a monetary transaction comprises:

2   retaining a commission.

1   33.   The method of Claim 18 further comprising:

2   obtaining goods-related data from each of the retailers, each of the distributors, and each

3   of the manufacturers.

1   34.   The method of Claim 33 wherein obtaining goods-related data comprises:

2   obtaining a product data from each of the manufacturers;

3   obtaining an inventory data from each of the distributors; and

4   obtaining a product line data from each of the retailers.

1   35.   A method comprising:

2   obtaining price data from each of a plurality of retailers, a plurality of distributors, and a

3   manufacturer for a plurality of goods;

4   receiving an order for at least one of the plurality of goods;

5   selecting one of the plurality of distributors to fill the order;

6   processing a monetary transaction for the order such that the distributor selected to fill

7   the order, one of the plurality of retailers, and the manufacturer are each contemporaneously

8   credited with a sum representing their portion of a total value of the order according to the price

9   data.

1   36.   The method of Claim 35 wherein obtaining price data comprises:

2   obtaining a manufacturer cost for the goods supplied by the manufacturer;

3   obtaining from each of the distributors a distributor profit data for the goods inventoried

4   by the distributor; and

5   obtaining from each of the retailers a retailer profit data for the goods sold by the retailer.

37.   The method of Claim 35 wherein distributor profit data is either a percentage

2   above the manufacturer cost or a specified sum; and wherein retailer profit data is either a

3   percentage above the sum of the manufacturer cost and the distributor profit data, or a specified

4   sum.

1   38.   The method of Claim 36 wherein a retail price of the plurality of goods is

2   determined by the manufacturer cost, the distributor profit data, and the retailer profit data for

3   the good.

1   39.   The method of Claim 35 wherein receiving an order comprises:

2   receiving an order from either a consumer or one of the plurality of retailers.

1   40.   The method of Claim 35 wherein selecting a distributor comprises:

2   selecting one distributor capable of filling the order such that the distributor is

3   geographically closest to a customer or a customer selected retailer.

1   41.   The method of Claim 35 wherein processing a monetary transaction comprises:

2   debiting the total value of the order against a credit card account of a customer.

1   42.   A machine readable medium having stored thereon instructions which when

2   executed by a processor cause the machine to perform operations

3   comprising:

4   obtaining price data from each of a plurality of retailers, a plurality of distributors, and at

5   least one manufacturer for a plurality of goods;

6   receiving an order for at least one of the plurality of goods;

7   selecting one of the plurality of distributors to fill the order;

8   processing a monetary transaction for the order such that the distributor selected to fill

9   the order, one of the plurality of retailers, and the manufacturers of the goods in the order are

10   each contemporaneously credited with a sum representing their portion of a total value of the

11   order according to the price data.

1   43.   The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein obtaining price data causes the

2   machine to perform operations comprising:

3   obtaining a manufacturer cost for goods supplied by each of the manufacturers;

4   obtaining from each of the distributors a distributor profit data for of the goods the

5   distributor distributes; and

6   obtaining from each of the retailers a retailer profit data for the goods the retailer sells.

1   44.   The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein distributor profit data is either

2   a percentage above the manufacturer cost or a specified sum; and wherein retailer profit data is

3   either a percentage above the sum of the manufacturer cost and the distributor profit data, or a

4   specified sum.

1   45.   The machine readable medium of Claim 43 wherein a retail price of the plurality of

2   goods is determined by the manufacturer cost, the distributor profit data, and the retailer profit

3   data for the good.

1   46.   The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein receiving an order causes the

2   machine to perform operations comprising:

3   receiving the order from either a consumer or one of the plurality of retailers.

1   47.   The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein selecting a distributor causes

2   the machine to perform operations comprising:

3   selecting one distributor capable of filling the order such that the distributor is

4   geographically closest to either a customer or a customer selected retailer.

1   48.   The machine readable medium of Claim 47 wherein selecting a distributor causes

2   the machine to perform operations comprising:

3   selecting the one distributor that is in the same country as the customer.

1   49.   The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein processing a monetary

2   transaction causes the machine to perform operations comprising:

3   debiting the total value of the order against a credit card account of a customer.

1   50.   The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein processing a monetary

2   transaction causes the machine to perform operations comprising:

3   retaining a commission responsive to the total value of the order.

1   51.   The machine readable medium of Claim 42 further causing the machine to perform

2   operations comprising:

3   obtaining goods-related data from each of the retailers, each of the distributors, and each

4   of the manufacturers.

1   52.   The machine readable medium of Claim 51 wherein obtaining goods-related data

2   causes the machine to perform operations comprising:

3   obtaining a product data from each of the manufacturers;

4   obtaining an inventory data from each of the distributors; and

5   obtaining a product line data from each of the retailers.

1   53.   A method comprising:

2   obtaining product data and price data for a plurality of goods from each of a plurality of

3   retailers, a plurality of distributors, and a plurality of manufacturers;

4   receiving orders for some of the plurality of goods from a plurality of customers;

5   obtaining credit card authorization for the orders;

6   selecting one of the plurality of distributors to fill each of the orders;

7   receiving an acknowledgement when each order ships;

8   debiting the credit card accounts of the customers;

9   crediting the distributors, the retailers, and the manufacturers at a defined time after orders

10   have been shipped with a sum representing their portion of a total value of the orders shipped

11   according to the price data; and

12   retaining a commission for the orders.